

Message Text

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TO USDA/FAS/WASHDC
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FOR LESLIE HURT/SUGAR & TROPICAL PRODS/FCA

SUBJECT: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION OF A RECENT FIELD TRIP
TO THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AREAS OF THE VISAYAS

TOFAS 7. 1. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS OF A DEC. 8-13 FIELD TRIP
TO NEGROS, PANAY, AND LEYTE FOLLOWS: THE SUGAR DETERIORATION PROBLEM
IS BAD. THERE ARE ABOUT 450,000 TONS OF OLD CROP (1974-75) RAW
SUGAR STILL IN PNB HANDS. ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF THIS SUGAR IS NOT
EXPORTABLE IN ITS CURRENT CONDITION. IT WILL EITHER HAVE TO BE
REFINED FOR DOMESTIC USE OR REPROCESSED FOR EXPORT AND/OR DOMESTIC
USE. THE POLARITY HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY ON MOST OF THIS SUGAR.
THE WEIGHT LOSS ON REPROCESSING THIS SUGAR WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT
15,000 TONS. THE COST OF REPROCESSING WILL BE TREMENDOUS.
PARA. THE AVAILABILITY OF WAREHOUSING SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. DUE
TO CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY WAREHOUSES AND UTILIZATION OF MAESHIFT
STORAGE MOST MILLS CAN COPE WITH THE PROBLEM THROUGH THE END OF
JANUARY. THIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DECEMBER AND JANUARY
EXPORT MOVEMENTS WHICH MAY PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL RELIEF. PANIC
MILLING IS WIDESPREAD BECAUSE OF THE RUMORED UNCERTAINTY OF PNB'S
FUTURE BUYING POLICIES. PARA. THE 1975-76 SUGARCANE CROP IS
EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AND WILL PROBABLY SET A NEW PRODUCTION RECORD
UNLESS PNB CHANGES TO A MORE UNFOVRABLE BUYING POLICY. PARA.
THE AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER APPLIED TO THE 1976-77 CANE CROP WILL
BE REDUCED SLIGHTLY AS A RESULT OF PNB'S REDUCTION IN THE COMPO-
SITE PRICE OF RAW SUGAR TO PESO 105.5 PER PICUL. PARA. THE
CURRENT COST OF PRODUCING SUGARCANE IS PROBABLY ABOUT PESOS 5,800
PER HECTARE AND IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT PRICE BEING PAID FOR
SUGAR, THE SMALL FARMER WHO BORROWS MONEY TO PRODUCE HIS CROP
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AND MAKES ONLY AVERAGE YIELDS OF 87 PICULS PER HECTARE, MAY

ONLY BREAK EVEN AND HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR HIS YEAR'S WORK.
END SUMMARY.

2. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE TRIP REPORT HAS BEEN AIRPOUCHED TO
EUGENE T. RANSOM, AREA OFFICER, FESA/FAS/USDA/WASHINGTON.
SULLIVAN

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